

back past, with all their practical excitations gone. How the soul loves to float amid such reminiscences!" Mr. Speaker, with the release of these, the first 50 of the sound recordings preserved in the National Recording Registry, my soul is floating atop the marvel of what is to become of the National Recording Registry and the possibilities of cultural awakening for coming generations. Congratulations to all who are making this dream come true.

LOUISIANA RICE ECONOMIC  
RELIEF ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2003*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the severe economic distress of the Louisiana agriculture industry. In particular, the Louisiana rice industry is facing disastrous economic conditions due to record low market prices coupled with storm damage from Hurricane Lili, Tropical Storm Isidore, and several additional severe storm systems. Without sustainable federal support for last year's losses, many rice producers, and much of the rural Louisiana economy, will not be able to withstand another year of hardship.

As we enter the final stages of negotiations for the FY 03 Omnibus Appropriations bill, I commend Senator COCHRAN and the supporters of agriculture disaster assistance in the U.S. Senate. However, unfortunately, it will take more than 42 percent of direct program payments to reverse the current economic disaster in South Louisiana. For this reason, I am reintroducing the Louisiana Rice Economic Relief Act, providing a \$2.42 per hundred-weight payment to rice producers across the state.

As Congress concludes discussion on an omnibus appropriations package, and we prepare to debate an economic stimulus package for our nation, I offer the Louisiana Rice Economic Relief Act as the cornerstone of economic stimulus for the rural agricultural economy of this region. We must keep in mind the distress of Louisiana's agricultural economy if we are serious about moving forward on a truly sustainable plan for our nation's entire agriculture industry, as well as the entire economy of the United States.

CONGRATULATING RUTH BASCOM  
ON THE DEDICATION OF THE  
RUTH BASCOM RIVERBANK  
TRAIL SYSTEM

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2003*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate Ruth Bascom of Eugene, Oregon. On January 31, 2003, the Eugene City Council will name a bicycle and walking trail system after Ms. Bascom to honor her for her determined advocacy, intelligent leadership, and inspired vision. The Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail System is a testament to her indomitable spirit and her remarkable civic career.

Ruth Bascom has an impressive record of public service, with over thirty years of active participation. She has been Mayor and City Councilor; served as a member of the Alton Baker Park Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Bicycle Committee, and the Governor's Bicycle Advisory Committee; was president of the Youth Symphony Board and the League of Women Voters; and worked on a variety of campaigns dedicated to enhancing our community.

Ruth Bascom gets things done—and done well. She has helped shape Eugene and is directly responsible for the award-winning bike-way system. In her many civic roles, she tirelessly fostered the riverbank trail system through design, funding, and construction phases. Her wholehearted and unwavering support for a city-wide bicycle-pedestrian trail system rallied community members, elected officials, and staff to her vision.

The opening of the East Bank Trail completes the Ruth Bascom Riverbank Trail System. The project survived ups and downs and detours because Ms. Bascom focused considerable energy, enthusiasm, and ingenuity on its success and delivered the necessary plans, funds, and allies.

Ruth Bascom is an exemplary citizen activist. I am pleased to offer her the hearty congratulations and warm thanks she so richly merits.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF MCKENDREE COLLEGE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2003*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 175th Anniversary of McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois.

McKendree College is the oldest college in Illinois. Founded by Methodist pioneers on February 20 1828, McKendree College will mark her 175th anniversary on February 20, 2003.

In recent years, McKendree has experienced remarkable growth in both quality and quantity. In academics, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected a McKendree College professor as the Illinois Professor of the Year for 2002, Dr. Nancy Beck Young. The college has welcomed its first group of students from France as part of a new exchange program in the Business Division. In addition, the college faculty has grown 65 percent and includes professors well-published and recognized in their fields of expertise. McKendree has a nationally ranked Debate and Forensics Squad and boasts and outstanding teacher education program, one that has recently received re-certification, and the only one among six institutions, to receive the certification fully and without provisions.

McKendree's student body has also excelled in its 175 years of history. With approximately 1,300 students currently enrolled at the Lebanon campus, the student body has grown 67 percent in the past 10 years and the residential population has increased more than 300 percent. The current freshman class is the third largest in the history of the college, in-

cludes 22 valedictorians and has an impressive 3.7 GPA and 24 ACT. Currently, students from 15 different states and five countries are enrolled at McKendree College.

McKendree also has an athletic program that is gaining in national prominence. This year the men's basketball team has been ranked #1 nationally in the NAIA, the first time in the history of the college that an athletic team has earned a first place ranking. The college football team, now in its seventh season since its return in 1996 after a 45-year hiatus, played in the NAIA semi-finals, with an 11-2 record. McKendree's athletic director and men's basketball coach has been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame, earning recognition as Coach of the Year and this year broke the record to become the winningest coach in NAIA history. In Track and Field McKendree athletes have won several national team championships.

McKendree College is a four-year, private, liberal arts college and is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a Top Tier Midwest Liberal Arts College. For the sixth consecutive year, McKendree has been recognized as one of America's 100 Best College Buys. McKendree College has been referred to as "the fastest growing business in Southwestern Illinois". Dr. James M. Dennis is the 32nd president of McKendree College, inaugurated in 1994.

McKendree College, founded in 1828, has the distinction of being one of the first colleges established in Illinois. Acknowledging pride of her Scottish heritage McKendree was also approved as the first institutional member of the Clan Henderson Society of the United States in 1997.

Each year, students from McKendree College contribute to businesses, schools, and non-profit organizations in the region as interns, teachers and employees. The college has participated significantly in regional programs to enhance diversity education and to help prepare students from lower income areas for college. The college provides a wealth of cultural events to the community, hosting distinguished speakers, exceptional performers, and nationally ranked competitive athletic contests. They partner with many community groups and assume a leadership role to promote and enhance the benefits of the region.

McKendree College provides a high quality academic program, at the heart of which is a values-centered liberal arts education. The mission of McKendree College is to include students in the joys and challenges of intellectual inquiry and its staff and faculty are devoted to nurturing this experience both inside and outside the classroom. The college has grown significantly in the past seven years and has brought esteem and recognition to our greater community. They enjoy the reputation of a high quality academic institution, with competitive athletic programs, and the diversity of social and co-curricular programs that meet and challenge a wide range of interests.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 175th Anniversary of McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois and to recognize its alumni both past, present and future for their contributions to the success of the University.